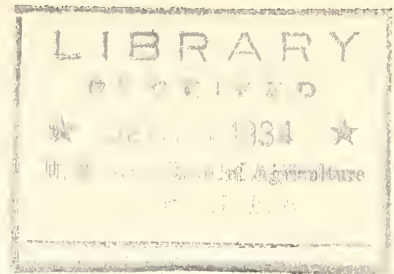


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.



December 17, 1934

MEMORANDUM TO ALL FIELD OFFICERS, DIVISION OF GAME MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Waterfowl Observations

It is of the utmost importance that the Survey obtain the best possible information on the numbers of migratory waterfowl left after the shooting season. You have been advised that it is the Chief's wish that all field officers of this Division assist the Division of Wildlife Research in obtaining these data, and I am sure that every member of the Division will accept the task with confidence and pleasure.

The week beginning Monday, January 21, and ending Saturday, January 26, 1935, has been selected for this work.

All Game Management Agents and Deputy Agents will make this their major activity during that week, and such personnel as may be assigned to the work by District Agents also will be so engaged. District Agents and Regional Directors will themselves assist on waterfowl concentrations in the general vicinity of their headquarters that are not being covered by other officers.

It is desired that estimates of numbers of the different species be made so far as possible on the same area each day of the week. This will make it possible to interpret any sudden increase in one area that may be offset by a decrease in another. It is appreciated that it will be impossible to form an accurate estimate of the numbers of such marsh- and swamp-loving shoal-water species as the Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Teals, etc. In such cases, however, careful observations will at least indicate daily numerical fluctuations.

For birds that are almost always found in open water, however, including such diving ducks as the Canvasback, Redhead, and Scaups (Broadbills and Bluebills), it will be possible to make fairly accurate estimates. Because of the critical status of all ducks of this group, these should be given special attention.

The best-known method of calculating open-water rafts is to estimate the area covered by the birds, allow one duck per square yard, and subtract one-third to allow for unoccupied raft-end taperings and open-water spaces in the formation. To standardize the data, this method should be followed by all observers as closely as possible. It is my belief that most of the

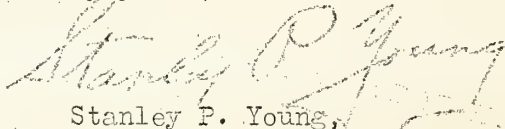
field officers of this Division are expert at calculating the size of areas, and in consequence I am counting much upon the accuracy of their reports.

Officers with power boats may be able to select several more or less connected areas and visit them each day. This method will be particularly effective in coastal regions. In the interior, other officers with automobiles may be able to make regular visits to two or more concentration areas.

Attached hereto is the report form (Bi-1360) prepared by Mr. F. C. Lincoln, of the Division of Wildlife Research. At the end of the week it should be filled out and forwarded to the Washington office. Separate reports should be prepared for each area on which observations are made. For this purpose two extra forms are enclosed. Additional copies can be obtained from the Office of the Regional Director or District Agent.

This is an important assignment for all field officers and one in which we must not fail.

Sincerely yours,



Stanley P. Young,
In Charge, Division
of Game Management.

Encl.

WATERFOWL REPORT—JANUARY 21-26, 1935

State _____ Observer _____

Name and location of area _____

1. If your experience with this area includes the same period in 1934, make comparison of the number of ducks and (or) geese. Give present percentage of increase or decrease, or indicate "No change." _____
2. If you cannot answer question No. 1 from your own observations, what is the consensus of opinion of reliable hunters, guides, and other residents of the region? _____
3. Give your estimate in the following table of the number of birds of the indicated species present in the area on each of the dates specified:

Species	Dates -- January -- 1935					
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Mallard.....						
Black Duck.....						
Gadwall.....						
Baldpate (Widgeon).....						
Green-winged Teal.....						
Blue-winged Teal.....						
Shoveler (Spoonbill).....						
Pintail.....						
Wood Duck.....						
Redhead.....						
Canvasback.....						
Greater Scaup (Broadbill).....						
Lesser Scaup (Bluebill).....						
Ringneck (Blackjack).....						
Goldeneye (Whistler).....						
Bufflehead (Butterball).....						
Ruddy Duck.....						
Snow Goose (Greater and Lesser)....						
Ross's Snow Goose.....						
White-fronted Goose.....						
Canada Goose (incl. Hutchins's)....						
Cackling Goose.....						
Brant.....						

Remarks: _____

Bi-1360
Dec. 1934

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

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Wood Duck.....						
Redhead.....						
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Remarks: _____

